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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/458,768	12/10/1999	CHARLES C. BYERS	BYERS-31-1-1	9256

7590 09/12/2003

JAMES J BITETTO
F CHAU & ASSOCIATES L L P
1900 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE
SUITE 501
EAST MEADOW, NY 11554

EXAMINER

ODLAND, DAVID E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2662

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DATE MAILED: 09/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/458,768

Applicant(s)

BYERS ET AL.

Examiner

David Odland

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1,11,21 and 34 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 1,11,21 and 34, in line 14, all recite the term 'bandwith'. It appears as though this is a misspelling of the term 'bandwidth'

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-20, 26 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Referring to claims 1 and 11, line 8, the claims recite, "...separate data and signaling of each channel..." It is unclear what channels are being referred to.

Referring to claims 7,17,26 and 37, the claims recite, "...wherein the narrowband transmissions include an ATM cell..." This limitation is confusing; the parent claims recites recite that the narrowband transmissions are converted into ATM cells, therefore it is unclear how the narrowband transmissions can *include* an ATM cell.

Claims 2-10 and 12-20 are also rejected because they depend on rejected parent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1,7,10,11,17,20,21,26,28-31,34 and 39-42, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Onno (USPN 5,170,272), hereafter referred to as Onno.

Referring to claims 1 and 11, Onno discloses a method for asynchronously transporting narrowband and broadband transmissions over a link (narrowband and broadband data is transmitted over a link in ATM format (see figures 1-3 and column 1)) comprising providing at least one host terminal for receiving and transmitting communications over a transmission line (host terminals receive and transmit data over the network (see figures 1-3)), converting narrowband transmissions to and from composite asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells by separating data and signaling of each channel into separate byte positions in the composite ATM cells (the narrow band data is converted into ATM cells (see figures 1-3 and columns 2 and 3)) and transferring the composite asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells over the transmission link (the ATM cells are transmitted over a link to a receiving end according to the CCITT recommendation (see figure 1 and column 2)), the composite asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells including both narrowband and broadband composite cells such that an entire bandwidth of the transmission line is available for both narrowband and broadband transmissions (the switch B.NT2 switches and transfers both the broadband ATM cells and the narrow band data that is converted into ATM cells (see figures 1-3 and columns 2 and 3)).

Referring to claims 7, 17 and 26, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that the narrowband transmissions include an ATM cell including integrated services digital network (ISDN) data and voice telephony data (the narrowband data include N-ISDN data which according to the standard is used for transmitting voice calls (see column 1 and figures 1-3)).

Referring to claims 10 and 20, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses connecting the host terminal to an optical network unit by employing the transmission line (the terminals are connected to an optical network element (see columns 2 and 3 and figures 1-3)).

Referring to claims 21 and 34, Onno discloses system for asynchronously transporting narrowband and broadband transmissions over a link (narrowband and broadband data is transmitted over a link in ATM format (see figures 1-3 and column 1)) comprising at least one host terminal for receiving communications from and transmitting communications to a back plane (a narrow band terminal transmits and receives communications over a communications line, which can be considered a backplane (see items T, To and B.TE (of figures 1 and 2)), at least one network unit coupled to the at least one host terminal by a transmission line (a broadband terminal is coupled to the narrowband terminal (see item B.TE of figure 2)) and the at least one host terminal and the at least one network unit each including a circuit pack for converting narrowband communications to and from composite asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells such that an entire bandwidth of the transmission line is available for both narrowband and broadband transmissions (data from the narrowband and broadband terminals is converted into ATM cells (see figure 1-3 and columns 1-3)).

Referring to claims 28 and 39, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that the circuit pack includes a broadband interface for converting broadband signals to and from the composite asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells (broadband signals are converted into ATM cells (see items B.TE and B.TA in figure 2)).

Referring to claims 29 and 40, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that the circuit pack includes a multiplexer for addressing information between a narrowband and a broadband interface (the circuit used for converting the narrowband data into ATM cells includes a multiplexer (see item 60 in figure 8)).

Referring to claims 30 and 41, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that the network unit is co-located with a service subscriber (the broadband terminal is located with a subscriber service (see figure 2)).

Referring to claims 31 and 42, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that the composite ATM cells include header information employed for directing the composite ATM cells to a destination (the ATM standard defines ATM cells as having headers that contain identifiers (VCI and VPI) that are used for directing the cells to their destinations).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-5,8,9,12-15,18,19,22-25,27,32,33,35-38,43 and 44, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onno in view of Hiller et al. (USPN 5,327,421), hereafter referred to as Hiller.

Referring to claims 2,12,22 and 35, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that the composite ATM cells include pairs of ATM cells (the ATM cells include signaling and corresponding information cells (see figure 8 and 9 and columns 7 and 8)) and further comprising the step of constructing a first composite cell of the pair, which includes data for a plurality of channels and a second composite cell of the pair which includes signaling information associated with each of the plurality of channels (the ATM cells include signaling and corresponding information cells (see figure 8 and 9 and columns 7 and 8)). Onno does not disclose that the ATM cells comprise a

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plurality of channels. However, Hiller discloses a system where a plurality of narrowband telephony channels are converted into ATM cells (see abstract)). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have the Onno system convert and communicate a plurality of channels, as taught in Hiller, because doing so would allow more subscribers to be serviced, thus increasing the system capacitance and versatility.

Referring to claims 3,13 and 23, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that each pair of cells is logically linked to reassemble the data and the signaling information for each channel (inherently, the signaling of the channels is linked to its corresponding information cells so that the receiving end can properly process the signal (see figures 1-3 and 8 and 9 and columns 2,3,7 and 8)).

Referring to claims 4,5,14,15,24,25,36 and 37 Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that the first composite ATM cell of each pair includes voice telephony data of the first composite ATM cell (the narrow band data is of the N-ISDN protocol with includes voice data (see column 1)) and signaling information associated with the channel in the second composite ATM cell of each pair (the associated signaling of the N-ISDN information is also converted into ATM cells (see columns 1,7 and 8 and figures 1-3, 8 and 9)). Onno does not disclose that the ATM cells comprise a plurality of channels of the telephony data. However, Hiller discloses a system where a plurality of narrowband telephony channels are converted into ATM cells (see abstract)). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have the Onno system communicate a plurality of channels in the ATM cells, as taught in Hiller, because doing so would allow more subscribers to be service, thus increasing the system capacitance and versatility. Note, referring to claim 5, Onno discloses that the first composite ATM cells is converted ISDN data (see column 1 and figures 1-3)).

Referring to claims 8,9,18,19,32,33,43 and 44, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Furthermore, Onno discloses that composite ATM cells include a first composite cell (the data for the

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ISDN channel is converted into ATM cells (see figures 1-3 and columns 2 and 3)), a second composite cell which includes signaling information associated with each of the plurality of channels (the signaling of the corresponding channels is also converted into ATM cells (see columns 7 and 8 and figure 8 and 9)). Onno does not disclose that the information in the cells is from a plurality of channels or of a third cell containing the associated messaging of the channels. Hiller discloses a system where a plurality of narrowband telephony channels and their associated messaging are converted into ATM cells (see abstract)). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have the Onno system communicate a plurality of channels and their associated messaging in the ATM cells, as taught in Hiller because doing so would allow more subscribers to be service, thus increasing the system capacitance and versatility.

Referring to claims 27 and 38, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Onno does not disclose that the circuit pack includes a narrowband interface for converting pulse modulated signals to and from the composite asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells. However, Hiller discloses a system wherein PCM signals are converted into ATM cells (see abstract)). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to convert PCM signals into the ATM cells, as taught in Hiller, because PCM is an established technique for converting voice calls into digital data. Since ATM cells comprise digital data, it would have been obvious to use the already established PCM technique for converting voice calls from an analog telephone in Onno into digital signals for the ATM cells.

8. Claims 6 and 16, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onno.

Referring to claims 6 and 16, Onno discloses the system discussed above. Onno does not disclose that the ATM cells are transferred periodically. However, It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the cells of Onno periodically because doing so would help

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improve timing of the system. Furthermore, Onno does not disclose that the first composite cells transmitted each period and the second is transmitted every fourth period. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the cells of Onno in the manner because doing so is merely a matter of design choice.

Conclusion

9. The following prior art, which is made of record and not relied upon, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- a. U.S. Patent Number 6,125,117 to Martin et al.
- b. U.S. Patent Number 6,111,879 to Choi.
- c. U.S. Patent Number 5,889,773 to Stevenson, III.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Odland, who can be reached at (703) 305-3231 on Monday – Friday during the hours of 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou, can be reached at (703) 305-4744. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, who can be reached at (703) 305-4750.

deo

September 8, 2003


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER